2: Jochelson E-5 (1884-1902) 1933 Yakut

(*Coregonus leucichtys, C. Omul, C. Muksun, C. clupoides*), the chief catch of the natives on the shores of Okhotsk and Bering seas consists of salmon of the genus *Oncorhynchus;* the dog salmon (*O. lagocephalus* or *O. keta*), the humpback salmon (*O. proteus* or *O. horbusha*), the red salmon (*O. lycaodon* or *O. niarka*), the chawicha (*Salmo orientalis*), and some others. With the migrating fish coming from the Arctic Ocean belong also the starlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*) and the sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*). 136

Many coregonidae and other species of fish live continuously in the Arctic rivers and in the numerous tundra lakes.

Population of the Polar Region

The population to the north of the Verkhoyansk Ridge is very small. This region has only 0.01 man to a quadratic mile, or 1 man to 100 square miles. Settlements are confined to the river valleys and the shores of large lakes abounding in fish. The tundra dweller of Siberia seldom settles on the seacoast or on the adjacent islands, as do the American Eskimo. Since off shore the sea is quite shallow the hunting of sea mammals has not been developed; for instance, the ocean between the mouth of the Kolyma River and the Sviatoi Nos to the west is only seven meters deep at a distance of ten or twenty miles from shore. West of the Chukchee are no sea-going peoples and no skin boats. Late in the fall, when snowstorms begin to rage on the tundra, the nomadic natives wander southward to the protection of the forests. 161 634 ● 131 [361]

The Chukchee and Yukaghir are regarded as indigenous tribes of the region. The Tungus were forced to the Arctic region when the Yakut, migrating from the south, occupied Yakut Province. In their turn, the Yakut crossed the Verkhoyansk Ridge when the Russian conquerors invaded the Lena country and were followed to the Arctic region by Russians who settled at the mouths of the rivers. The climate is unfit for agriculture, but the Yakut introduced horned cattle and horses. Cattle-breeding, however, also encounters many obstacles: the grasses are of poor quality, the haying and fishing seasons coincide, and for nine months of the year the soil is covered with a deep layer of snow. In spite of the abundance of fish, famines are frequent, owing to lack of cooperation, methods of conservation, and foresight. The basic economic foundation of Arctic Siberia is the domesticated reindeer. The Yakut, as well as all the other tribes of the region, both aboriginal and immigrant, are endeavoring to acquire the reindeer, an important factor in their welfare. [221] [511]

2. Jochelson E-5 (1884-1902) 1933 Yakut

161
634
131

The Olekminsk District. The Olekminsk District in the south of Yakutsk Province is considerably smaller than others of the province as a part of it was annexed to the Vitimsk District of Irkutsk Province, when the gold mining region of Vitim was developed. At present it is confined to the valley of the Olekma River and to a small area to the north of the Lena River. The district town of Olekminsk is situated on the east bank of the Lena River not far from the mouth of its tributary, the Olekma River. Olekminsk District is a mountainous region and the Yakut population of about 10,000 is mainly concentrated in the Lena Valley, while on the tributaries of the Lena and in the mountains the nomadic Tungus predominate. The Yakut form one administrative unit, the Olekminsk *Ulus*, which is divided into six *naslegs* and forty-four clans. The largest *nasleg* is the Second Meitsky which includes fourteen clans.

The Viliuisk District. Viliuisk District lies beyond the principal lines of communication. It has no high mountain ridges like those bordering the Yakutsk District and is covered with dense forests called *taiga*. As has been previously stated, the northern part of the former Viliuisk District, which included the west bank of the lower course of the Lena, a region rich in fish, furs, and mammoth tusks, was recently detached from it to form a new district, named Bulun, after a Yakut fishing and trading post on the lower course of the Lena. At present the new Bulun District comprises a vast territory between the seventieth degree of north latitude and the Polar Sea and the Indighirka and Khatanga rivers. The Khatanga River is the boundary line between the Province of Yakutsk and Yeniseisk. As formerly constituted, Viliuisk consisted of four administrative divisions called *ulus* (Suntar, Markha, Upper-Viliuisk, and Middle Viliuisk *uluses*). The Suntar *Ulus* was divided into fourteen *naslegs* comprising seventy-five clans; the Markhinsk *ulus* had sixteen *naslegs* comprising eighty-six clans; the Upper Viliuisk *ulus* had twelve *naslegs* and forty-two clans; the Middle Viliuisk *ulus* had fourteen *naslegs* with forty-one clans. The population of about 67,000 is divided into 244 clans.

The Yakutsk District. The former Yakutsk District is now divided into two districts: Yakutsk and Aldan. The latter occupies the valley of the Aldan River, an eastern tributary of the Lena, and its tributaries. We will review the district in accordance with its former boundaries. Second in size after the Verkhoyansk District, Yakutsk District assumes first place in density of population. The table land between the Lena River and its tributary, the Aldan, is most heavily populated. Yakutsk

2: Jochelson E-5 (1884-1902) 1933 Yakut

District is divided into eight *uluses:* 1, the East Khangalas *ulus* has twelve *naslegs*, including fifty-two clans, numbering about 14,500 people; 2, the West Khangalas *ulus* has nineteen *naslegs* which include sixty-seven clans with a population of about 22,000; 3, the Namsky *ulus* has seventeen *naslegs* and eighty-seven clans with a population of 17,550; 4, the Meghinsky *ulus* has sixteen *naslegs*, sixty-eight clans, and a population of 20,036; 5, the Borogon *ulus* has thirteen *naslegs*, forty-five clans, and a population of about 9,700; 6, The Bayagantai *ulus* has nine *naslegs*, 143 clans, and a population of 9,292; 7, the Baturus *ulus* has thirty-one *naslegs*, 107 clans, and 30,335 people; 8, the Dupsún *ulus* has eight *naslegs*, twenty-seven clans, and 7,706 people. The total number of clans in the Yakutsk District is 596 with a population of 131,088 (64,818 men, 66,270 women) showing a surplus of 1,452 women over men, or 0.55 per cent.

In 1927 the Academy of Sciences of Leningrad published, under the editorship of Professor Paul Wittenburg a volume under the title of "*Iakoutie*," meaning the Yakut country. The volume contains 746 pages and includes twenty maps and tables, 78 drawings, nineteen photographs of the country investigated, and sixteen papers by specialists on the history, geo-morphology, geology, soil, fossils, vegetation, fur-hunting, fishing, agriculture, forestry, roads, and other items. In the present publication the writer has utilized the data thus presented.

Climate

The fundamental factors which determine the climate of a country are: its latitude, the relation between land and sea, elevation above sea level and topography, and its situation with reference to adjoining areas of high or low pressure. A glance at a map may give a general idea of the first three factors. We will survey, in detail, the last factor, upon which the other climatic elements depend to a large degree.

Throughout the year, in Yakutsk and Verkhoyansk, we observed only moderate winds or absolute calm. During all seasons, absolute calm is more frequent in the evenings and rare during the day. In Yakutsk May and in Verkhoyansk June is the windiest month. North of Verkhoyansk the velocity of the wind increases with the decrease in altitude. Between Yakutsk and Verkhoyansk the velocity of the wind is eight meters a second and between Verkhoyansk and the Polar Sea ten meters a second.

The following table shows the velocity of wind in Yakutsk at different altitudes:—

7: Shklovsky -- 33 T-3 (1891-92)1916 Yakut
116, 194, 492, 634

" It was the time of the summer general assembly (1) in Sredne Kolymsk, and Yakuts

1. There are two general assemblies, one in summer and one in winter.

came from the remotest parts of the district, from Verkhne Kolymsk, Alazei, etc, The 'street,' if it can so be described, was crowded and noisy. Numbers of Yakuts were constantly arriving on horseback at the house of the clerk where the assembly was held. Petty chiefs of small clans scornfully regarded the 'unofficial' people, constantly arranging their bead belts, from which hung old cutlasses, the gift of Catherine II to their ancestors. Near the house there were many horses tied up to poles. The extraordinarily high saddles, with large cushions adorned with copper and silver ornaments, would doubtless greatly astonish the ordinary cavalry man accustomed to Cossack and English saddles. From our windows could be heard the incessant hum of the guttural Yakutian language, which Gilder considered as sonorous and soft as a mixture of Italian and Irish. "

44: Gilder --190-191 J-2 (1882) 1883 Yakut
116, 634, 778, 782

"The fifth day after leaving the Kolyma we crossed the divide between that river and the Indigirka, and here, by the roadside, upon the crest of the mountain, stood a cross which marks the dividing line between the police districts of the Kolyma and Werchojansk. . . . [191]. . . The cross was hung with bits of cloth and ribbon and bunches of horsehair, and in some of the many cracks that seamed the venerable structure were copper coins, all gifts from previous travellers, to charm away any prospective evil that might attend so great a change of residence. Each member of the party contributed something to this curious collection--the old man a leaf of tobacco, Nányah a ribbon from her brown tresses, while I tied a few hairs from the tail of each horse in our train to one of the sticks that stood in the snow near the cross and from which waved many similar offerings to the idols of the Yakouts and Siberia. It was to me altogether a strange and interesting spectacle, this weird cross, with its ribbons and horsetails waving in the breeze from the summit of a Siberian mountain; the sudden transition from devotion to levity upon the part of my companions as they turned from their prayers to participate in the rites of the savages and decorate the cross of the Christians with the emblems of idolatry--all this was equally new and impressive."